

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 33760 01 OF 02 182011Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 HA-05 /084 W
-----043719 182106Z /75

R 181504Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1876
INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY LOME

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 33760

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: FR, XY
SUBJECT: FRANCE AND WEST AFRICA

1. AF/W DIRECTOR SMITH ACCOMPANIED BY EMBASSY OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST CALLED NOVEMBER 16 ON QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR FRANCOPHONE AFRICA CHRISTIAN DE LA ROCHERE FOR DISCUSSION OF AREA DEVELOPMENTS. ON THE GENERAL SUBJECT OF THE WEST AFRICAN FOOD SITUATION, DE LA ROCHERE SAID THAT THE LATEST HARVEST HAD RESULTED IN HEAVY DEFICITS IN MAURITANIA AND SENEGAL; A GENERALLY SATISFACTORY SITUATION IN UPPER VOLTA; REASONABLY GOOD FOOD HARVESTS IN MALI AND NIGER BUT POOR EXPORT CROPS; SUFFICIENT FOOD CROPS IN CHAD.

2. ON THE SITUATION IN MAURITANIA DE LA ROCHERE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 33760 01 OF 02 182011Z

REPEATED THE REASONS, POLITICAL AND MILITARY, WHY AN ATTEMPT TO FREE THE PRISONERS OF THE POLISARIO BY AN ENTEBBE TYPE RAID WAS UNTHINKABLE. HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR THEIR RELEASE WOULD GIVE QUICK RESULTS. HE NOTED GOF DETERMINATION TO PROTECT FRENCH CITIZENS IN MAURITANIA AND REFERRED TO THE SURVEILLANCE FLIGHTS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY BREGUET

MARITIME RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT OUT OF DAKAR, TRAINING OF MAURITANIAN TROOPS BY FRENCH ADVISORS (WHO HE SAID WERE ENJOINED FROM A COMBAT ROLE), AND THE AUGMENTATION OF TROOP STRENGTH IN SENEGAL TO ABOUT 1300 -- 100 LESS THAN THE NUMBER AUTHORIZED BY THE AGREEMENT WITH SENEGAL. DE LA ROCHERE SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE OF NO EVIDENCE THAT THE POLISARIO HAD ARMORED VEHICLES OR HEAVY WEAPONS, BUT THERE WAS AMPLE EVIDENCE OF ASSISTANCE BY THE ALGERIANS AS DEMONSTRATED BY IMPROVEMENT IN FIREPOWER AND MOBILITY AND BEAUTIFULLY EXECUTED TACTICAL MANEUVERING. AS TO WHETHER ALGERIANS ARE FIGHTING WITH THE POLISARIO HE SAID ONLY THAT FRENCH CORRESPONDENTS HAD RECENTLY INTERVIEWED ALGERIAN PRISONERS OF THE MAURITANIAN GOVERNMENT. DE LA ROCHERE SAID THAT THE GOF HAS SOME DOUBTS ABOUT THE ABILITY OF THE MUKHTAR GOVERNMENT TO SURVIVE BUT THAT THERE WAS NO CLEAR SUCCESSOR IF HE WERE TO BE OVERTHROWN.

3. GUINEA. THERE HAS BEEN A NOTICEABLE WARMING OF FRENCH-GUINEAN RELATIONS. IN PARTICULAR FRENCH BUSINESSMEN IN GUINEA, EITHER TO PICK UP THE PIECES OF OLD BUSINESSES OR TO START NEW ONES, REPORT A VERY WARM WELCOME BY GUINEANS AT ALL LEVELS. GISCARD HAS NOA SAID THAT HE WILL BE UNABLE TO VISIT GUINEA UNTIL AFTER THE FRENCH ELECTIONS IN THE SPRING, BUT DELAY
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 PARIS 33760 01 OF 02 182011Z

WAS INEVITABLE IN ANY CASE BECAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS THERE.

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 33760 02 OF 02 182025Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 HA-05 /084 W
-----044351 182105Z /75

R 181512Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1877
INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY LOME

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 33760

4. CHAD. IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT MILITARILY TO DOMINATE THE SITUATION. THE MOST THAT CAN BE HOPED FOR IS THAT THEY CAN HOLD THE LINE UNTIL NEGOTIATIONS SUCCEED. REGULAR FRENCH MILITARY ARE FLYING CHAD'S HELICOPTERS AND TRAINING THE CHAD ARMY AND THE GOF HAS FACILITATED THE HIRING OF FRENCH CONTRACT PILOTS TO FLY THE GOC'S A4D'S. HOWEVER, THE FLOW OF LIBYAN SUPPLIES TO GOUKOUNI MEANS THAT HIS MEN ARE BETTER ARMED, INCLUDING AA WEAPONS, AND THIS COULD DISCOURAGE OFFENSIVE AIR OPERATIONS BY FRENCH PILOTS. THOUGH FRANCE HAS DECIDED TO TRAIN AND EQUIP A MOBIL REACTION FORCE OF ABOUT 1000 MEN, THE FORCE HAS YET TO BE RECRUITED.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 33760 02 OF 02 182025Z

5. BENIN. DE LA ROCHERE COMMENTED THAT IT WAS A DEPLORABLE SITUATION THAT CANNOT LAST. HE RECALLED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN 14 COUPS SINCE INDEPENDENCE BUT DID NOT SPECULATE FURTHER.

6. WEST AFRICAN FRANCOPHONE ALLIANCE. THE ALLIANCE WAS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE REALIZATION OF THOSE COUNTRIES THAT THEY WERE DEFENCELESS IN THE FACE OF RUSSIAN AND CUBAN ACTIVITY ON THE CONTINENT. NIGER, FACED WITH THREE MUCH MORE POWERFUL NEIGHBORS, DECIDED NOT TO ADHERE OPENLY TO THE ACCORD. A REMARKABLE FACT WAS MALIAN PARTICIPATION AFTER HAVING BEEN SO RECENTLY ARMED BY THE RUSSIANS. HE SAID THAT THE AGREEMENTS (NONAGGRESSION AND DEFENCE PACTS) ARE NOT YET IN FINAL FORM. AS FAR AS HE WAS AWARE, THE GROUPING OF STATES DID NOT YET HAVE THE ABILITY TO COMMIT FUNDS TO BUY MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

7. GHANA HAS RAISED WITH THE FRENCH THE TOGOLESE
CLAIM TO TERRITORY WHICH WAS ONCE GERMAN TOGOLAND
AND WHICH WAS GRANTED TO GHANA BY ITS BRITISH AD-
MINISTRATORS. THE FRENCH HAVE ASSURED THE GHANIANS
THAT THEY ARE NOT ENCOURAGING THE TOGOLESE.
HARTMAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIELD CROPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS33760
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770428-0620
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771142/aaaabjy.tel
Line Count: 177
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 72f0c216-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 531977
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRANCE AND WEST AFRICA
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, FR, XY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/72f0c216-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009